

Fourth Grade Summer Reading Booklist

Required Readings: Choose at least one.

Realistic Fiction

Level 1:

Freckle Juice by Judy Blume

Andrew wants freckles so badly that he buys Sharon's freckle recipe for fifty cents.

Level 2:

Frindle by Andrew Clement

When he decides to turn his fifth-grade teacher's love of the dictionary around on her, clever Nick Allen invents a new word and begins a chain of events that quickly moves beyond his control.

Level 3:

Island: Shipwreck by Gordan Korman

Six children try to survive on a desert island in the Pacific Ocean after a storm destroys their boat.

Student Choice: Choose at least two.

Fantasy

Level 1:

Dragon Slayers Academy (series includes: **Beware! It's Friday the 13th**; **Revenge of the Dragon Lady**; **Sir Lancelot, Where Are You?**; **The Ghost of Sir Herbert Dungeonstone**; and others) by Kate McMullan

When Wiglaf meets a traveling minstrel, he's told that he is going to be a hero. Delighted with this news, Wiglaf, and his pet pig, Daisy, leave home for the Dragon Slayers' Academy. These are stories of dragons and knights, full of knock, knock jokes, pig-latin, comical and gross and a great fantasy series.

Secrets of Droon (series includes: **Flight of the Genie**; **Fortress of the Treasure Queen**; **The Golden Wasp**; and others) by Tony Abbott

Eric, Julie and Neal stumble upon the magical world of Droon, populated by wizards and sorcerers, invisible cities, vanishing islands, and castles under the sea.

Level 2:

The Keepers (series includes: **A Wizard Named Nell**; **The Wizard's Apprentice**; **The Wizard's Scepter**) by Jackie French Koller

Eldearth is a land in need of a new Imperial Wizard. The forces of evil are rapidly encroaching, and the Keeper of the Light is growing too old and weak to hold them off. Witches, wizards, and humans coexist in Eldearth, although the magical folk have a higher status and better standard of living.

Rowan of Rin (series includes: **Rowan of Rin**; **Rowan and the Zebak**; **Rowan and the Keeper of the Crystal**; and others) by Emily Rodda

Crackling adventure, a magical map, clever rhyming clues, and a small hero who proves braver than anyone expects, makes this fast-paced fantasy difficult to put down.

Level 3:

Chronicles of Narnia (series includes: **The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe**; **The Magician's Nephew**; **The Silver Chair**; and others) by C.S. Lewis

The Chronicles of Narnia is a series of seven fantasy novels for children written by C. S. Lewis. They present the adventures of children who play crucial roles in the unfolding history of the realm of Narnia where some animals talk, magic is rampant, and good is fighting evil.

Merlin (series includes: **Hobby**; **Passenger**; **Merlin**) by Jane Yolen

Worthy introduction to Arthurian legend for the younger reader.

Series of Unfortunate Events (series includes: **The Bad Beginnings**; **The Austere Academy**; and others) by Lemony Snickett

Tales of three likable, resilient, and unfortunate Baudelaire orphans, Violet, Klaus, and Sunny, in search of a home--stories that are literary and irreverent, hilarious and deftly crafted.

Wizard of Oz by L. Frank Baum

Dorothy, a young girl who is transported by a cyclone to the magical world of Oz where she makes wonderful friends, battles evil, and must face down a wizard to return home to Kansas.

Rhianna Chronicles (series includes: **The Girl, The Apprentice, and The Dogs of Iron; The Girl, The Dragon, and The Magic**) by Dave Luckett

You can't live without magic - everyone in the Land knows that. Magic controls everything. But what happens when the magic goes wrong?

Historical Fiction

Level 1:

My America (series includes: **Five Smooth Stones; Our Strange New Land** ; and many others.) -

Written in journal format by award-winning authors, the stories focus on the character and the daily life of people who lived at the time with the politics or historical events as a backdrop. Also, the characters in this series live on in future books

Level 2:

Dear America (series includes: **Across the wide and lonesome prairie: the Oregon Trail diary of Hattie Campbell; A journey to the New World : the diary of Remember Patience Whipple; A light in the storm : the Civil War diary of Amelia Martin;** and many others)

Written in a diary format, each historical novel is extensively researched from actual letters and diaries, allowing readers to experience the daily lives of girls from different times in American history. A companion series--My Name Is America--follows the adventures of boys from America's past.

My name is America (series includes: **The Journal of James Edmond Pease: a Civil War Union Soldier; The Journal of Scott Pendleton Collins: a World War II Soldier; The Journal of William Thomas Emerson : a Revolutionary War Patriot;** and many others)

A ground-breaking, adventure-based historical fiction series written in journal format and designed to appeal to boy readers. A companion series--Dear America--invites readers into the personal worlds of girls from different times in American history.

Level 3:

Royal Diaries (series) - Intriguing and vivid portraits of young princesses from different countries and cultural backgrounds written by noted fiction writers include black-and-white drawings, photos, and historical notes about each era. Some examples include: Cleopatra, Queen Elizabeth 1, Anastasia, etc.

Mystery

Level 1:

Cam Jansen (series includes: **Cam Jansen and the Barking Treasure Mystery; Cam Jansen and the Chocolate Fudge Mystery; Cam Jansen and the Ghostly Mystery;** and many others) by

David Adler

Fifth grader Cam Jansen uses her phenomenal photographic memory to solve mysteries. Stories are in "Beginning Chapter-Book" format.

The Ghost in Room 11 By Betty Ren Wright (Other appropriate books by Wright)

When his family moves to a small town near Milwaukee, Matt's efforts to fit into his new fourth-grade class are complicated by his poor spelling and his encounter with the ghost of one of the school's former teachers.

Meg Mackintosh Mystery at Camp Creepy by Lucinda Landon

While attending summer camp for the first time, Meg tries to solve the mystery of the camp's legendary ghost. The reader is challenged to interpret each clue before Meg finds the solution.

Level 2:

Nothing but Trouble by Betty Ren Wright

Vannie Kirkland and her dog, Muffy, are dropped off at an elderly aunt's house while her parents look for work in California.

Level 3:

Hardy Boys (series includes: **Hunting for Hidden Gold; The Secret of the Old Mill; The Tower Treasure**; and many more) by Franklin Dixon

This is an adventure series that has catered to the dreams of each generation of readers. Throughout its history, the stories have changed steadily with the times and are ready to be introduced to a new generation.

Nancy Drew (series includes: **The Bungalow Mystery; The Clue in the Diary; The Hidden Staircase**; and many more) by Carolyn Keene

Nancy Drew has been a landmark heroine for girls since her Depression-era debut in 1930. Clever, resourceful and independent, Nancy uses courage and common sense to solve adventurous mysteries.

Sammy Keyes (series includes: **Sammy Keyes and the Hotel Thief ; Sammy Keyes and the Skeleton Man** ; and others) by Wendelin VanDraanen

Exciting mysteries starring the feisty and funny, smart and spunky seventh-grade ace detective, Samantha Keyes.

Sebastian Barth (series includes: **Dew Drop Dead , Eat your poison, What Eric Knew**)- by James Howe

Graduates of the Bunnica books can move on to the adventures of young sleuth Sebastian Barth. In the first of these mysteries Sebastian investigates the strange accidents that befall a noted actress; the second book, which PW called ``a tense adventure with laugh-out-loud moments," involves a ghost and puzzling notes from one of Sebastian's friends.

The Curse of the Blue Figurine By John Bellairs (And any other Johnny Dixon mysteries by Bellairs) Johnny Dixon is plunged into a terrifying mystery-adventure when he removes a blue figurine called a ushabti from church.

Belltown Mysteries (series includes: **The Secrets of Belltown, The Secrets of Cranberry Beach, The Secrets of Cain's Castle, The Secrets of Pilgrim Pond, Secrets of Code Z**) By T.M. Murphy

Realistic Fiction

Level 1:

Marvin Redpost (series includes: **Marvin Redpost: A Magic Crystal; Marvin Redpost: Alone in his Teacher's House**; and others) by Louis Sachar

Sachar's finely tuned sense of how children think and feel make these books about Marvin and his comic misadventures entertaining.

The Gadget War by Betsy Duffey

Kelly is an ingenious inventor with 43 inventions to her credit and she is only in third grade. Then she meets Albert and he is determined to prove that he is the real gadget wiz.

Jake Drake Series by Andrew Clements

Jake is an endearing boy who uses his head to sort out appropriate conclusions to bad situations.

Level 2:

Granny Torrelli Makes Soup by Sharon Creech

This story of a friendship, told around food and delivered in small, digestible bites, is a tasty treat.

Mr. Popper's Penguins by Richard Atwater

Mr. Popper starts out with one penguin in his house, but before he knows it there are twelve.

Level 3:

Absolutely Normal Chaos by Sharon Creech

Thirteen-year-old Mary Lou grows up considerably during the summer while learning about romance, homesickness, death, and her cousin's search for his biological father.

Everything on a Waffle by Polly Horvath

Eleven-year-old Primrose, who lives in a small fishing village in British Columbia, recounts her experiences and all that she learns about human nature and the unpredictability of life in the months after her parents are lost at sea.

How to Eat Fried Worms by Thomas Rockwell
Two boys set out to prove that worms can make a delicious meal.

In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson by Bette Lord
In 1947, a Chinese child comes to Brooklyn where she becomes Americanized at school, in her apartment building, and by her love for baseball.

The Breadwinner by Deborah Ellis
Because the Taliban rulers of Kabul, Afghanistan, impose strict limitations on women's freedom and behavior, eleven-year-old Parvana must disguise herself as a boy so that her family can survive after her father's arrest.

The Whipping Boy by Sid Fleischman
A bratty prince and his whipping boy have many adventures when they inadvertently trade places after becoming involved with dangerous outlaws.

Biography

Level 1:

Photo-illustrated Biographies. Published by Bridgestone.
Simple, clear biographies about famous people both contemporary and historical.

Autobiographies of Tomie De Paola: Talks about selected moments of his life.
26 Fairmont Avenue, Here We All Are, On My Way, Things Will Never be the Same

Level 2 / Level 3:

Childhood of Famous Americans by various authors.
Published by Aladdin Paperbacks.
The majority of these stories emphasize the famous historical persons formative years. There is very little about their lives as adults.

Biographies by Diane Stanley:
Bard of Avon: The Story of William Shakespeare, Charles Dickens: The Man who had Great Expectations, Cleopatra, Joan of Arc, Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci

Poetry

Level 1:

Beneath a Blue Umbrella by Jack Prelutsky
It's Raining Pigs and Noodles by Jack Prelutsky

Level 2:

Works by Myra Cohn Livingston: **Celebrations, Christmas Poems, Festivals, Flights of Fancy and other Poems, If You Ever Meet a Whale: Poems, Keep on Singing: a Ballad of Marion Anderson, Lots of Limericks**

Poems by James Stevenson: **Candy Corn: poems, Corn chowder: poems, Corn-fed: poems, Cornflakes: poems, Just around the corner: poems**

Level 3:

When We Were Very Young by A.A. Milne
These verses were written for Christopher Robin include nonsense, whimsy and rhythmic surprises.

Poetry for Young People (series); Carl Sandburg, Emily Dickinson, Robert Lewis Stevenson, Robert Frost, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Informational

Level 1:

Books by Greg Tang – **Math Fables** and **Math for all Seasons**

Books by Jerry Pallotta – **Reese's Pieces Count by Fives, Twizzlers Shapes and Patterns**

Level 2:

Books by Aki- Includes books about dinosaurs, gods and goddesses, manners and feelings and many other topics

Level 3:

Books by Betsy Maestro – **Coming to America, The Discovery of America, and others.**

Books by Seymour Simon - This author writes about mostly science topics.

Books by Jerry Pallotta – **Twizzlers Percentages Book**

Books by Cindy Neuschwander – **Sir Cumference Math Adventure** books

Recommended Authors for Grade Four:

Judy Blume, Eve Bunting, Lynne Cherry, Andrew Clements, Jon Scieszka, E.B. White, Matt Christopher, Roald Dahl, Ann McGovern, Lois Lowry, Eleanor Coerr, Mildred Taylor, Ann Turner, Laura Ingalls Wilder, Patricia Polacco.